

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Fred Paoa, 81, retired Assistant Police Chief

"Well, we figured that the family, my brothers and sisters, were getting old, and they could utilize that money [by selling] rather than leasing. . . . People say why don't you save it? Save it for whom? Sure, the property [value] has gone up. So what? My dad and my mother didn't enjoy it. My eldest brother, another brother, [and] two [other] brothers and three sisters that didn't enjoy it. They get nothing out of it, they're dead. So, why should I keep it, lease, and then maybe I pass away?"

Fred Ho'olae Paoa, Hawaiian-Caucasian, was born May 7, 1905 and raised in the family home on the corner of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kālia Road. The seventh of twelve children born to Henry Ho'olae Paoa and Florence Bridges Paoa, he attended Waikīkī and Ka'ahumanu Elementary Schools, and graduated from St. Louis in 1924. Paoa received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Hawai'i in 1928.

In 1932, Paoa joined the Honolulu Police Department and served until 1968, when he retired as Assistant Police Chief.

Paoa's family property in Kālia, Waikīkī was a 45,000-square-foot parcel stretching from the corner of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kālia Road, past the site of the present Waikikian Hotel to the beach. The lands were first leased in 1955 to Henry J. Kaiser, who built part of the Hawaiian Village Hotel on Paoa's property. Most of the property was eventually sold to Hilton Hotels Corporation, which presently owns the Hawaiian Village.

Paoa lived on the property until 1955. He eventually moved to Foster Village, where he presently lives with his wife. They have three children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Paoa's older sister, Mary Paoa Clarke, was also interviewed for this project.

Tape No. 13-19-1-85

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Fred Paoa (FP)

March 15, 1985

Foster Village, O'ahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Fred Paoa on March 15, 1985 at his home in Foster Village, O'ahu. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, Mr. Paoa, can we start by having you tell me where you were born and when you were born?

FP: I was born in Kālia, on the corner of Ala Moana and Kālia Road.

WN: Right on the corner?

FP: Right on the corner, yeah. It was a property (presently the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel) there of about at least forty-five or forty-six thousand square feet. Quite a big old rambling house, the old-type lanai that went about three-quarters around the building. One story. We had about--well, there's twelve in the family, six boys, six girls. So, you can imagine how many bedrooms we needed.

WN: How many bedrooms did you have?

FP: We had about five or six bedrooms. Six bedrooms. But as the members of the family got married, they moved out and things like that, see. But we had about six bedrooms (over a period of time).

WN: And what date? What is your birthdate?

FP: I was born May 7, 1905. May 7.

WN: What was your father's occupation?

FP: My father worked (as a laborer) at the old (U.S.) immigration station out here on Ala Moana Road. He worked there, I guess, all his adult life. Sort of a maintenance person. He fished quite a bit on weekends. He was quite a fisherman. He fished a lot with the Japanese people who settled in the neighborhood. He was very well liked by them.

WN: What kind of fishing?

FP: Well, with my dad he had nets. Catching kala, mullets, (weke, etc.). (He also caught squid with a type of cowry shell attached to a heavy lead weight and a two-pronged hook. It was called leho he'e.) It's brown and yellow with heavy (lead) weights on one side. They'd drop it at the bottom. During the mating season, the squid will come out and hold onto it. They get caught on [the hook], and we used to hoist it up on the canoe.

WN: And what, how many shells did they have? Just one or . . .

FP: Oh, we had about two or three. Not too many. (It would depend on the number of people on the canoe. Each person used one of these shells.) But the squid would see this. And it's the color of a squid--the shells I'm talking about. The squid will come on, thinking it's (chuckles), you know. It's like a bait. Then we'd pull it up. And then, spearing for squid [was also done]. And we used to catch, as kids, clams in that area (using picks and shovels). You see, where the Kaiser Hospital is now, right outside of it.

Now, there was a stream that entered into the ocean in that particular area. We used to (pick) limu'ele'ele [there]. That's the name of the type of limu you find near a stream entering into salt water. The Hawaiians used to go there and pick this up. I remember my parents used to do that quite a bit. Then we used to go in front of [Fort] DeRussy and Pierpoint. There's all types of limu. Manawa, huluhulu-waena, (etc.). Now, see, I'm (chuckles) beginning to forget these things. But that's where we used to get all these different types of limu. Wana, get lot of wana out there, just inside the reef.

WN: How you used to eat wana?

FP: Well, we used to put (them) in a bag and shake the bag near the seashore. As the (waves) come on the seashore, we just roll them (to) break off all of the spines. And then, (break open the shell to get to the meat by using either) a spoon or your thumb. The Hawaiians in those days ate that with lobster (that was) half-cooked on charcoal. Half-cooked, not thoroughly cooked. They put it in a bowl and put the wana in it. That's the way they eat the wana.

WN: So, they eat the wana raw, but the lobster . . .

FP: Oh, yeah. You don't cook wana at all. Or you could mix wana (and lobster) up with some seaweed, things like that, in a separate dish. Or wana with poke, raw fish, stuff like that. But I remember definitely it's that type of food that we had. Wana and half-cooked lobsters. People don't eat that now days. We had that quite a bit. That was common.

WN: Did you catch the lobsters, too?

FP: Oh, yeah. We used to catch (with three-inch mesh) nets (placed around the reefs)--overnight. (Lobsters usually move around at

night and get caught in these nets.) They did very little spearing of lobsters. And we only caught enough to supply the family. We didn't sell any fish. We used to catch a lot of kala. You know what kala is? Sometimes we catch about a hundred, a hundred fifty kala, and we never sold (them). We gave it to the neighbors, Hawaiians, whoever. That was the custom in those days (for the neighbors to share their catch with their relatives and friends).

WN: The clamming, where did you folks do the clamming?

FP: (Just off the shoreline at low tide. We dug up coral and sediment with picks and shovels to get the clams that were imbedded.) There was actually a lot of mud in the bottom there in that area. But I think it's the result of the stream that enters there. I'm not too sure how they got started there. We (found clams there for several) years (until the entire area was dredged).

WN: You said that, you know, the limu that you folks used to pick, you used to pick it right at the foot of where the stream and ocean meet?

FP: Well, outside of it. Right outside of it. (At the mouth of the stream where the fresh water meets the sea water.)

WN: Why was that?

FP: I don't know. This type of limu'ele'ele, I think you find it near the streams. I don't know why, but they seem to like fresh water. It's the brackish water, probably, or the fresh water that enters the ocean to mix with salt water, you see. I think you find this limu'ele'ele. (You should try this type of limu with stew.) (Other) types (of limu could be found just within the reefs along Kūhiō and Waikīkī Beach).

WN: Can you find limu'ele'ele today?

FP: Oh, yes. Well, not too many. I don't know where they are now. (On the windward side of O'ahu.) I've seen it at the market. (Laughs) Or at luaus. You don't find limu('ele'ele) in those areas (in Waikīkī) anymore because they have--you know the swimming tanks there? They have the chlorine in the water. A lot of places at Waikīkī, they let the water run out to the ocean. (Most of the limu in Waikīkī and Kālia are not edible because of the pollution that enters the seashores.)

WN: Oh, from the swimming pools?

FP: The swimming pools. I personally think that's what's killing fish and all this limu that you're supposed to have. I don't see any other way you can ruin it.

WN: You said you used to catch mullet, too. Where did you catch mullet? Is this fresh water or salt water?

FP: No, no. This is salt water. No fresh water, no. We used to catch mullets certain seasons. It's seasonal, you know, mullets. Now, they have laws where you can't catch it during the spawning season, like November, December, January, February. It's closed because it's spawning season. In those days, they didn't have any ban on when you should catch it. So, you caught a lot of this fish. We used to have them dried. But nobody sold it. We caught fish just enough for the table for the family, that's all.

WN: You grew up eating mostly fish, then?

FP: (Yes.) We had maybe meat once (or twice) a week on Sundays. Stew. We didn't miss meat. Today, I don't miss meat at all. If I went without it, (chuckles) don't bother me at all. Fish, I could eat fish every day. I think it's healthier. (Laughs)

WN: Yeah, it is.

FP: Then we had 'o'opus. Catch quite a bit 'o'opus. In the Pi'ināi'o Stream. It wasn't a river, just a stream. (Laughs) We used to catch also another type of 'o'opu (for bait). They were very small (and they live) in the mud outside, off the shore. And they form little holes in the mud. So, (by inserting) your fingers in (the tiny) holes (in the mud, this type of 'o'opu is easily caught). You go through like this.

WN: Your fingers meet?

FP: Yeah. Then you catch 'em. They're very slippery. Put 'em on a hook, see. In those days, we didn't have a reel. We put [a hook] on a long cord with a little weight on it. Just throw it and then (retrieve the line to) catch pāpios (chuckles) that way. Or catch eels. (We caught white eels by inserting a small pole attached to a baited hook and line in the rocks or coral of the reef.)

WN: So, you didn't even have a pole then?

FP: No, we didn't have a pole. We didn't know what a pole was. Of course, (to catch) we had to get those ribs from the (dried) coconut leaves (and attach to the end of this three-foot-long rib a loose noose made by tying one strand of dried coconut husk with a slip knot). You put a little piece of meat on [the noose]. The black crab come, you just catch it by the pinchers and hook it up. (We caught two types of black crabs: 'a'ama, which we caught at night using a light, and 'alamihi, which we caught in the mud and rocks.) I mean, kids don't do it now. I'm telling you things that we used to do!

(Laughter)

WN: Sounds like you had a lot of patience. (Chuckles)

FP: Yeah, but we did that quite a bit. For no reason. We're just having fun, see. Like catching mullets. (I feel that fishing especially

is relaxing and, above all, good for your soul.)

WN: Did you have a special spot that you went all the time?

FP: (We fished and played at different areas, depending on the type of things that interested us.)

WN: Right by your house or anywhere else?

FP: Well, when I caught 'o'opus, we used to go right across the street. With a little (bamboo) pōle (and a line and a hook), and then just throw the (shrimp) bait out there. There're lot of 'o'opus, all the way down [the stream]. All the way down, you have to catch . . .

WN: Pi'ināi'o Stream, eh?

FP: (Pi'ināi'o Stream flowed from Mānoa Valley, through the duck ponds across Kalākaua Avenue, along Ala Moana Road near our home, and ended at the area where the 'Ilikai Hotel now stands.) We used to have one of these shrimp nets, you know, with this--have you seen those?

WN: Two handles?

FP: Two handles, yeah. We used to get underneath the shrub (and weeds along) the side of the stream. Then you catch 'ōpaes, [or] shrimps, 'o'opus, (chuckles) anything you can find in there. Then use that ('ōpaes) as bait.

WN: Where did the stream run?

FP: Pi'ināi'o?

WN: Yeah.

FP: It ran from across down in front of my place. You know, from the corner of. . . . Let's see, location now, I'm trying to figure. You know where the Tops [Canterbury Coffee Shop]? Is that Tops still there?

WN: Tops, right.

FP: All right. From that point, there used to be a large wooden bridge.

WN: Over John 'Ena [Road]?

FP: On the left of John 'Ena. (FP draws map.) You see, Ala Moana ran up this way. This is Kālia. And then, the bridge went over this way. And this is 'Ena Road. So, the stream ran down this way, alongside in front of my place all the way down to the beach.

WN: Where did it empty out exactly? You know, where the stream emptied or went into the ocean, what's there now?

FP: ('Ilikai Hotel.)

WN: Is it by Waikikian Hotel?

FP: Yeah. You know, there's a lane there?

WN: Yeah, yeah.

FP: Well, that's an original lane. There's always been a lane there. It's an access to the beach. (A public right-of-way from Ala Moana Road to the beach, located between the Waikikian Hotel and 'Ilikai Hotel.) On the left where the Waikikian is was Shioyu.

WN: Shioyu Tea House?

FP: Right. On the right was the cleaner.

WN: Uh huh [yes]--Beach [Clothes] Cleaners.

FP: (Beach Clothes Cleaners stood where the 'Ilikai Hotel is now; Shioyu Tea House is now the Waikikian Hotel; Mochizuki Tea House is now part of Hilton Hawaiian Village.) That road is still there. So you go down to the beach, and on the right is where the stream ended. So, I'd say, actually in (back) of the 'Ilikai [Hotel] (towards the ocean).

WN: Did the stream ever flood?

FP: Oh, yeah. That's another big story because every time it rained hard, we didn't go to school. (Our parents kept us at home.) We were happy because we knew what's going to happen. When it rained, all the ponds (would overflow and the streams from Mānoa filled to the streets, bringing fish, ducks, chickens, including trees and rubbish towards the beach area). Pond mullets [and] catfish. Catfish are that big. Pontoon . . .

WN: How big? Two feet?

FP: Easy. The big ones. Pontoons. I don't know whether you know what a pontoon is.

WN: What is a pontoon?

FP: Pontoon looks like a pike. Yeah, they're big.

WN: Fresh water?

FP: Fresh water. Yeah, this is all fresh water. Ducks, chickens, you name it. (Chuckles) Everything came down. Usually, the ducks are in the ponds and all that. And that water came so fast, we used to stand out there, and here's the stream coming here. We stand around like this with our scoop nets.

WN: In the stream?

FP: No, no. At the mouth of the stream. See, this is the ocean here. All the sediment from the stream that was brought over, it settled there, so it's little shallow out here. So, the water from the ponds are coming fast, brown. And the fish are caught in the shallow. And everybody's rushing (laughs), we catching all these fish here.

WN: With net?

FP: With a net, yeah. Everybody had a net. Oh, I'd say fifteen, twenty people there, you know. All the neighbors around there. It's a big deal, see. We didn't sell it. We just took home what we wanted. I remember the catfish, we didn't eat (them).

WN: How come?

FP: I don't know. We thought it wasn't good to eat, so we used to give it away to the Chinese living up in the area. We didn't keep 'em. The mullets, we ate, and the pontoons. We thought (chuckles) it was better fish to eat.

WN: How often did it flood?

FP: Well, at least once a year, maybe. Sometimes, twice a year. (Laughs) But there used to be quite a bit. Soon as it started to rain, after the rain, nobody went to school. Everybody was out there (chuckles) catching fish. You ask Chinn Ho that, he might remember. But he wasn't out there, I don't think. (Laughs)

WN: Too early, huh?

FP: Yeah, I think he was losing all his ducks.

(Laughter)

WN: You said that your father was an immigration station employee, yeah? You told me a story last time about how he used to bring some of the people that docked--you know, some of the immigrants to your . . .

FP: You see, he, naturally, working there, he got to meet these people. You know, Filipinos and Japanese (immigrants), and I remember South Americans. I don't know where they come from. But he used to bring one or two to the house and tell us that these people would like to fish and they were good fishermen. They'd dive for uhus, kūmūs, oh, big fishes. On weekends, they'd go out there with a small spear. No goggles, nothing. They just go down there and they catch 'em. Then he take 'em back to work on Mondays, Monday morning. Not to work, but, you see, they were in his custody and he used to take 'em back there [immigration station]. He did that quite a bit. (Chuckles)

WN: You know, that Pierpoint area? Did you hang around out there, too?

FP: Oh, yeah. That's where I learned to swim. See, Duke's father taught me to swim. All my. . . . Sam [Kahanamoku], all of us. You know how he taught us? He tied a rope around us.

WN: Around your waist.

FP: See, Duke's father was a captain of police. Big guy. He tie us, and (he'd) throw us in the water. That's pretty deep, wasn't shallow.

WN: From the pier . . .

FP: About fifteen feet at least. From the pier, yeah. So, he says, "Okay, you want to drown, you (chuckles) can." That's how we learn. Then he pull us up. Take a rest. Next one, bang (chuckles).

WN: Hmm, gosh.

FP: Yeah. All of us did that.

WN: Even if you didn't want to swim?

FP: Well, we all wanted. Nobody just---you know, they wanted to learn. We weren't afraid of the water. Nobody was. We used to surf there on these waves about that high. They weren't too high . . .

WN: Three or four feet?

FP: At least, yeah. They're not too big. Catch 'em out by the point to the pier, then come on in with the surfboards. You know, you got to stand on the side because it's only about [four feet] deep. And then, get down and slide in. Kids. (Chuckles)

WN: What was your surfboard like?

FP: It was one small board (like an ironing board). Not the regular redwood boards. It's a small or square plank. We didn't have any so-called shape. Anything that we had, you know, for the time there. But the fellas out at Royal Hawaiian, the Moana Hotel, they had these redwood boards. That's the ones. I used later on when I went out there. I was about fifteen, sixteen. These redwood boards that they send in from California. They weighed about seventy-five to a hundred pounds. They were big ones, twelve feet, eleven feet, ten feet. We didn't use this type they use nowadays. These are all big boards. And then, when they get waterlogged, oh my God, they're worse. They're much heavier. We all surfed on those.

WN: Was the Pierpoint area the best place to surf? Near your . . .

FP: Well, for that type, was small surf (for the kids my age). Just a certain area. Once in a while, we went out beyond the reef there. Just a few waves outside. But these are all little kids, six years,

seven years, eight years, about that range--nine years, ten years old, who lived in that area. And as we got older, we went out there with (chuckles) the big boys. So we did lot of surfing.

Later on, we played baseball as I grew up. Sixteen, seventeen. [Earle] Vida [another interviewee] was our leader. Vida pitched for us. Kālia Athletic Club. And we played the army teams, [Fort] DeRussy. We used to play out there, they had a baseball team. And we used to play teams from Schofield Barracks. But he can tell you. You ask him about it. He knows more about it than I do.

WN: Where did you play the games?

FP: Out at DeRussy. They had a baseball field there. Vida (later) played for the Wanderers and the Waikīkīs in the Hawai'i League for many years. He was considered one of the best here in pitching.

WN: You were telling me, before, about the teahouse near your house, and how . . .

FP: Shioyu?

WN: Yeah, and how some Japanese teams used to come from Japan?

FP: Oh, that's Mochizuki Tea House. Oh, the Meiji teams, you mean?

WN: Mm hmm [yes].

FP: Oh, yeah, they came. They came to play baseball with the local (teams) here. But [at] different times, you know. I remember those three teams. I don't know of any others. Just Waseda, they might come. And then, next time, Meiji, and Keio. Now, Keio had a pitcher who was pure German and he spoke fluent Japanese. Sugasi. I remember the name. Boy, that guy was about six feet, four [inches]. Big guy. He's one of these aggressive fellas. They used to invite us to carry their bags so that we could get in the ball game. There was an athletic park at River Street. You know where the International Theater is?

WN: Yeah, yeah.

FP: Across the River Street? There was an International Theater there few years back. Matsuo ran it. Well, the park was in that area--athletic park. We used to walk in with these fellas, each one carrying (chuckles) a bag of bats. That's how we got in. I was about ten years old, eleven years old. We used to hang around there quite a bit at Mochizuki.

WN: So, which came first? Shioyu Tea House or Mochizuki? [WN mistakenly thinks that Mochizuki Tea House later became Shioyu Tea House. They were, in fact, two separate operations.]

FP: I don't remember. That was before, long before. I know the Shioyu's

been there for years. I don't know. They've had so many owners there, you know. People leasing it. (Shioyu leased land from the Paoa family; Mochizuki leased land from the neighboring John 'Ena Estate.) There's a woman that used to run Mochizuki. Then they moved out to the present--what's that?--Kunawai Lane or something? Is that Kunawai?

WN: Liliha?

FP: Liliha. I don't know if she's still there or not. [Mochizuki Tea House is no longer in operation.] The husband passed away, but she was running this place.

WN: There was a baseball field there or field where Mochizuki [used to be, in Kālia]?

FP: No, no. They didn't have a baseball field, but they had an area big enough where these fellas played. Not a baseball field, but it's a beautiful lawn. It's a big, open (grassy) area (to the beach). And then, when they have festivities, like some Japanese event, some big deal, they'd have tents out there. Then, they had a beautiful (pavilion) in the back where they had shows. You know, Japanese dancing, and sumō. That's where I first saw sumō, in there. We'd sit on the lawn on the side, big gang of us, and just watching, you know. (Laughs) That's where we learned to eat musubi. (Laughs) By God, ume.

(Laughter)

WN: What was your mother like? Tell me something about her.

FP: Her father was from Maine. Bridges. He captained one of the ships that came down here. She was one of four sisters, one brother. Her brother has a family now that lives on the other side of the island. Of course, they all passed away. Most of them passed away. My aunts, Mrs. Pahau, and then there's another aunt that was taken back to Maine by her father when he went back with his sailing vessel. She was taken back when she was fifteen. She married there and died there. I met her once.

WN: And your father was pure Hawaiian?

FP: He's pure Hawaiian. See, Duke's mother and my dad were brother and sister. My mother was half[-Hawaiian]. Her mother was Hawaiian, and her father was Yankee. (Chuckles) She spoke fluent Hawaiian to us. Fluent. Very little English. She was able to, but she wouldn't speak English. And we (answered) in English. I'm sorry she didn't (force us to learn Hawaiian). We had all the chance to learn (the language).

WN: Did your father speak Hawaiian to you?

FP: Oh, yes.

WN: Did your mother work?

FP: No. Outside? No, no, she never worked.

WN: What kind of games did you play?

FP: Well, I don't know. I been thinking. Tops, peewee. You know what that is? The wooden sticks?

WN: Explain it. How do you play peewee?

FP: You know, they cut a stick about three, four inches long. About the size of my thumb. Then, they cut, slant it a little bit. Then you put it down on the ground like this. You hit it, spins up like this, and you whack it with another stick. And see who hits it furthest away. You measure the distance. You hit once or one, two, three, bang! So, that means three times the distance.

WN: Oh, you hit it in the air?

FP: Yeah. Each time you hit it, one, two, three, and then whack. So, three times the distance.

WN: What if while you're hitting in the air, it drops to the ground?

FP: Well, you're out of luck because [the distance is measured] right there, you see. It's quite a knack to hit that. It's a lot of fun.

WN: Peewee?

FP: Peewee, yeah. We played that. Of course, we play a lot of that marbles [and] tops. We used to slide on the mud with our surfboards. Small boards. Run like hell on the beach and then slide on the mud, you know. (Laughs)

WN: Like sand surfing?

FP: This is mud. Slippery, you know. (Chuckles) You slide, you go over the board, you go right in the mud. (Laughs) We used to get all. . . . We find things to do. Build bon fires at night, cook fish. We used to do torching quite a bit at night. Catch mullets, kūmūs at night. Wekes, uhus. Lot of that. We come in and make a bon fire (chuckles). Of course, we played baseball later on, but when we were small, we didn't have any baseball. We had to wrap a string around something round. Play baseball that way, see. We didn't have any gloves in those days. The kids now, six years old, they got uniforms, gloves, caps. Everything. We didn't have anything like that. That's why, I think we appreciated these things that came later. The kids nowadays get everything. "Underprivileged," they call 'em, see? (Laughs)

WN: Did you folks do anything mischievous?

FP: Well, stealing coconuts, steal mangoes. If you call that doing wrong, yes. But the funny part of it, we had mangoes, we have coconuts in [our own] yard. But we do it just to say, "Hey, we got this from somebody's yard," or something like that, I guess. (Chuckles) But we did a lot of things, though. The kids weren't too bad (then). We were afraid of the truant officer.

WN: You mentioned there were Japanese and Hawaiians in the neighborhood. Any other ethnic group in your neighborhood?

FP: (Mostly Chinese and Japanese.) In that area there, Makaanoe and Hobron Lane, that's a Japanese settlement. Lot of fishermen lived in there. Now, Dr. Yamashita--Goonzo Yamashita--he's my age. I don't know if he's still living. Now, you can try and give him a call. I know him very well. I think he's retired now. He might help you about that area. He used to live there. And his sister, Chiyono. I've forgotten her last name. Now, the others, I don't know what happened to. I used to know all those people living back there. See, Goonzo and I went to Ka'ahumanu School.

WN: How did you get from your house to Ka'ahumanu School?

FP: We used to walk up 'Ena Road to Kalākaua. There was no other way. Kalākaua, and then left on King until you got to Pi'ikoi, then up.

WN: I see. Because you couldn't go straight down Ala Moana to Kalākaua, right? There wasn't a . . .

FP: No, no. There was no road there. Well, you couldn't get up to Kalākaua from Ala Moana. There [were] no roads.

WN: The road ended at Kālia?

FP: There was no road leading from there, that point, up to Kalākaua. It was all swamps.

(FP's wife enters.)

FP: But that area has developed a lot of athletes.

WN: Why is that?

FP: I don't know. Lot of athletes. You take in swimming, there was Duke [Kahanamoku], and Sam, his brother. He [Sam] was third in the [1924] Olympics in Paris. Johnny Weismuller beat Duke, Duke was second, Sam was third. Now Sargent was quite a swimmer, but he was young at the time. And then, you have Buster Crabbe. Remember Buster Crabbe who went to Hollywood?

WN: Yeah.

FP: They lived back there. He and brother Buddy. Buster was in the

long distance, 400 and above. He used to practice in front of DeRussy. And Buddy was in the short distances. There was Gay Harris who swam backstroke. Ah Kong Pang, David Pang's oldest brother, who was breaststroke. He's one of the best here, breaststroke. Let's see, who else was there? You know, Kenneth McKinney was one of the best divers we had here. Kenneth McKinney lived in Dewey Way. (Bill Simerson and my brothers Melvin and Malcolm Paoa were also swimmers.)

And we had quite a few football players. Henry Hughes went to Punahou, then he went into Oregon State, I think. And Harry Field. Harry Field passed away. Henry Hughes passed away. Harry Field was with Punahou, then he went to the Mainland, one of the big schools there. Then you have--well, that was later on, my nephews, Jimmy Clark, Buddy Clark. Wayne Sterling, Leon Sterling, Jr. Yeah, all these kids were brought up down there.

WN: You know, all these swimmers, was there any one coach that coached all these swimmers? Like Duke?

FP: I don't remember if he had (chuckles) a coach or not. He didn't have to when he was champion, I guess. I was too young. You see, he started 1912 as champion. I don't remember him having any coach. Harvey Chilton (coached) the Hui Makani swimmers (who competed against Duke's Hui Nalu). Then you have Dad Center. Dad Center was quite a coach. (He coached the Outrigger Canoe Club swimmers.)

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: Most of the kids had nicknames in those days, huh?

FP: Yeah.

WN: Did you have one?

FP: "Boy" is my name. B-O-Y. They still call me "Boy." I'm almost eighty. What the heck.

WN: Why'd they call you . . .

FP: My nephews call me Uncle. Uncle "Boy." Isn't that something?

WN: How did you get that name?

FP: My parents, I guess, gave me that. You know, when the kids are small. They call a kid "Cousin," and it sticks with them. The Harbottles have the same background, that type of thing. "Sister," you know. "Buddy," "Sister," "Colonel," "Cousin," and it sticks with them. All the young kids call me "Boy"--Uncle "Boy." (Chuckles)

Which is fine. I mean, they see me in town, they yell, "Hi Uncle 'Boy.'" When they say that, I know it's a relative, see. But I (sometimes) don't know who they are. (Chuckles)

WN: As a young boy, did you have any kind of part-time job to make extra money?

FP: About how old?

WN: Up until, say, fifteen.

FP: Up until fifteen? Well, I used to shine shoes down at Pierpoint, from house to house.

They say, "Oh, just a minute." They leave their shoes out. Then I do my job, go the next one, all the way down. Then Cressatys, the same way. I made a few--I forgot what the heck it was. Two bits, I guess. I sold [news]papers. We used to walk--Sam, Louis, my brother Gilbert, Sargent, myself--from home to the Honolulu Advertiser to pick up our papers. They were two for nickel, those days. (Chuckles) And then, walk home. We used to sell papers where the streetcar used to come down from McCully and hits Kalākaua, and makes a left turn. Right on the corner. So, we used to catch the transit--the bus--I mean, they call it a "transit."

WN: Streetcar.

FP: On the back of the transit, and make that turn, and go out and get off. We used to catch hell all the time from the conductor. We go up about three, four blocks, get off. Catch another one back. That's how we sold the papers.

WN: Oh, you sold it on the streetcar?

FP: On the streetcar. We'd go up. Oh, it's wide open, both sides, in those days. The old streetcars. Then, we'd go down to those houses on Pierpoint. We had regular customers there. And delivered the papers. We made about maybe two dollars, three dollars in the (chuckles) morning. And afternoon, we'd sell our [Honolulu Star-Bulletin] papers. And that was our corner. You know how the kids are. Nobody else allowed on that corner. We didn't go to Waikiki [i.e., Kalākaua Avenue], we didn't go anywheres else but there.

WN: The people that lived by Pierpoint, were they local families, Hawaiian, or were they tourists?

FP: Well, I don't know. Well, lot of them worked here. Most of them were Haole people. But I think they all lived here. Not too many tourists in those days. They had jobs here, you know.

WN: What were their houses like?

FP: Oh, they were all cottages. Bungalows, you know. And then, they

had a dining room up there at the main place where people can go and have their dinners or whatever they wanted. And we sold--we didn't sell, we swapped--'o'opus for ice cream cones.

(Laughter)

WN: Where?

FP: Well, you know, there's a man that came out and sold ice cream in a wagon. And we swapped coconuts. We give him a whole bunch of coconuts for one cone or a string of 'o'opus for one cone. Big deal, we made.

(Laughter)

FP: We did that quite a bit. And then, the poi man used to come around on the wagon. I remember his name, Aima. A-I-M-A was his name.

WN: Hawaiian guy?

FP: No, Chinese.

WN: Oh, Chinese?

FP: He's Chinese, Aima. He used to come around. And he had regular customers. He deliver poi, see.

WN: How did he sell poi?

FP: In the bag. Well, two bits for a bag. Every week. Everybody bought poi there. There're lot of Hawaiians, you know. Japanese, everybody.

WN: So, had poi, ice cream. Anybody else that came around selling things?

FP: Let's see, what else is there? No, that's about all, I think. I remember the ice cream man used to come around. (Chuckles) No, I don't think of anything else. Then we used to have luaus here on New Year's Day. My dad used to buy a big pig about three days before. Big live pig, maybe 200 pounds. Every New Year's. And we didn't have a place to keep 'em. So, we had to tie 'em up. Every year, New Year's Eve, he'd get out. The pig would run away. And it was all over the neighborhood. Everybody's chasing him. And everybody knows the Paoas are having a luau. So, they finally catch up with him, and we dress the pig in the morning, cook it. In those days, no [alcoholic] drinks. He wouldn't allow any drinks, my dad. He had one of these things they put on milkshake. That type of syrup. He used to mix it up, put into gallons. Cool it. Like Kool-Aid, something like that. (Chuckles)

WN: Who came to the luaus?

FP: The relatives or friends (of relatives). If you had a friend, he's

invited. You bring as many as you want.

WN: About how many people came?

FP: Well, I don't know. (Thirty.) We had a big family--I mean, relatives. They all invited.

WN: So the Harbottles, Kahanamokus . . .

FP: Yeah, the Japanese people back of us, they (were) invited. Every New Year's. You don't say, "Well, we're going to invite someone." They're already invited. They know they've been invited. So everybody catches squid, and they catch fish, and prepare for the (luau). We cook. Everybody takes a hand in cooking laulau, make things like that. It's a big job. Mixing the poi. Thick, big barrel. (Chuckles) All by hand. That was a big day, you know.

WN: Did your mother do lot of the cooking?

FP: Well, she used to supervise more. Because we had a lot of relatives, and then my sisters, brothers. We had a big backyard, and we made the imu in the backyard. Stones and rocks, and everybody chipped in. (Laughs) Usually, there's too many people helping out. I miss those things, though. But never served a drink. Not a drink. He was very religious, you know, my dad. Both of 'em. Church every Sunday. Always. We had to go to church. In fact, we had Bible classes at the house.

(Noise in background.)

FP: You know, get together when the pastor used to come down on Sundays, Sunday nights, back then.

WN: Where was your church?

FP: The church at the time was on King Street right across from the Catholic cemetery. You know the Catholic cemetery? You know where Straub Clinic is?

WN: Oh, yeah. Okay.

FP: On this? Is there a junk shop? Right next to it.

WN: Okay, by Straub then, huh?

FP: Yeah. Right across the cemetery. Right across the street.

WN: And how did you go to church every Sunday?

FP: Well, we rode the streetcar.

WN: So, at the luaus, what kind of food did you have?

FP: We have the usual thing. We had all types of raw fish or cooked fish. You name it, we had everything. We had wana, we had 'opihis, we had different types of raw fish, poke. Kala, dried fish. Fish cooked in ti leaves. We had all of that. Everything. (Chuckles) It's not a luau if wasn't all of this. That's the way they did it. Now, you don't see it. The only time you see things like that is either in the country or the outside islands, I think. It's too commercial [here]. Because of the Haoles and the visitors, they don't cook all this fancy stuff. They don't eat it. Naturally, you don't expect them to make this type of food. They're losing money, I think. Look at the [amount of] poi they serve. Gee, they serve me [that little] poi, it's an insult, huh?

WN: In the small cup?

FP: Yeah.

WN: Besides eating food, what did you folks do at the luaus?

FP: You mean, after the luau?

WN: Well, after you eat, yeah.

FP: Oh, we usually have music, singing. We had a lot of fun. We had an old piano. One of these--what do you call 'em? Standup piano? My brother played the piano, my sisters, my cousins. Duke's sister sang. She (was) a terrific pianist. She's eighty-eight now.

WN: Oh, Bernice?

FP: Bernice [Kahanamoku], yeah. Eighty-(five), I think. Beautiful voice. The Harbottles all played piano. Oh, you know, the talent was there. Oh, we had a lot of fun. You know, it's good fun.

WN: You remember any other things that your family used to do together?

FP: I remember we used to visit my (chuckles) cousins in Lā'ie. That's the Bridges [family], my uncle. The only boy in the Bridges family. They lived in Lā'ie. They were Mormons. So, my parents used to take us. We used to hire a taxi to get down there to Lā'ie. It'll take you all day to get there. You know, dirt road up through the old Pali. As soon as they get there, they kill a pig and dress the pig. It's a luau. Can you imagine that? They think nothing of it. They had chickens, ducks. A big spread there, they had. They live right next to the beach. Lobsters. 'O'opus. Not the type we get down here. It's white. White 'o'opus. Because the streams are clear streams through the mountains. They catch 'em in there. They're all white. I remember that. Had sand bottom. They're about that big.

WN: About eight inches? How big?

FP: They're about that big (four or five inches). They're white.

You take a few of 'em, maybe four or five sections in ti leaves. And they cook that in the imu with the pig and all kinds of other fish. Cooking bananas. They had sweet potatoes. It's from the garden, that kind. (Chuckles) They raise pigs. We had a lot of fun out there. We spent maybe one night there and the next day, another trip home. Another four or five hours, I get home, oh, God. (Chuckles) Quite an event, eh?

WN: Did the 'o'opus taste different?

FP: No, the same. Taste the same. They look much better, though. (Laughs) The black ones are mean-looking.

(Laughter)

FP: But, you know, the best place for these black ones [is] up in Kaua'i. Oh, I've seen those big ones out there in Kaua'i. They taste like trout. Have you tasted it?

WN: No.

FP: Yeah, like trout. I've tried them many times. Oh, I can't think of anything else. But it's such a long time ago, chee (chuckles).

WN: You doing fine. There was an amusement park around there [in Kālia between 1922 and 1930].

FP: Yeah, Aloha Park.

WN: What do you remember about that?

FP: Well, I remember the "Dipper," they call it. What's another name for it? Scenic railway?

WN: Roller coaster?

FP: Roller coaster. They call it a "Dipper." It went up, clack-clack-clack-clack-clack, then it dropped down, and then turned this way, see. That's how it went. Roller coaster, that's what it was. And they had other attractions there. Was there many years. Noisy, oh, boy, noisy. Very noisy. I don't know who ran it, but. . . .

WN: Did you have to pay to get in?

FP: Yeah. Well, it was free to get in, but the concessions, you had to pay.

WN: It was there all year around?

FP: Yeah, all year around. They had it for several years. Finally, they got rid of it and put that road through it, an extension to Kalākaua.

WN: You know, the military was right there, right? Fort DeRussy.

FP: Yeah. The military came right up to Ala Moana. That's right.

WN: Did you folks get along? Did the locals get along with the military? Have any problems?

FP: Well, we got along with the people who ran the military, but the individual soldiers, as I say. . . . You see, in those days, in order for them to catch the rapid transit, they had to walk up Kālia Road, right? Kālia Road, come up 'Ena, to Kalākaua. You know what I mean? To get the rapid transit. They couldn't go direct up [Ala Moana] like they do now to Kalākaua. There was no [other] way to get up there. So, on payday nights, after midnight when they're coming home drunk, you know, the usual thing. Yelling, or they'll come in the yard and go to sleep, things like that. You got to expect it. Got to get the MPs [Military Police] down there. That's the kind of trouble we had. It's the new batch of soldiers who come in to DeRussy that get this way. And then, they settle down, they get to know people. Or as I mentioned to you the other day, instead of going around the house, from Ala Moana to Kālia, they cut across. It's convenient.

WN: Right across your yard?

FP: So, that means right in the back, [near] the kitchen door. (Chuckles) But we lived through it.

WN: Your house was also near the Niumalu Hotel.

FP: That's the Niumalu, the Pierpoint.

WN: Oh, it used to be Pierpoint [Hotel]?

FP: Yeah. It's Niumalu, yeah, later.

WN: What was Niumalu Hotel like or Pierpoint Hotel? What did it look . . .

FP: Well, they had a nightclub there, Niumalu. They catered more or less to the tourists. They had more tourists stayed there, more so than the other people who lived there prior to that time. Then after that, [Henry J.] Kaiser bought them out [in 1955]. Jerry Zucker owned Niumalu Hotel. Jewish. He had that Niumalu for some time.

WN: You know, the Ala Wai Canal when it was built [in the 1920s], after it was built what changes did you notice in the area?

FP: Well, after they reclaimed all that land, all the ponds were filled with part of the [dredged] coral. They were filled in there, including the strip that they dredged outside the DeRussy and [where] the Hilton Hawaiian Village and 'Ilikai [are now]. They used all to fill the

[land on which] Ala Moana Center now [stands]. All that [was] swamp land. And the Hobron Estate which was across from where we lived, all of that was filled in. Even the stream, Pi'ināi'o River, was filled in. Including up where the [trolley] tracks were, McCully Street. They filled all that. So they started developing. That's when property [values] started going up. But it took a long time. I think the ones that developed first was the area down [along] Ala Moana. I think Dillingham [Corporation] had a lot to do with that fill-in. They eventually built the Ala Moana [Center]. The Hawaiian Dredging Company [was owned by] Dillingham. But out Waikīkī, I know it took a little time because they had to fill in topsoil and everything else in that area over a period of years. It wasn't too fast at all, you know.

WN: Did you notice any changes in the fishing in the area?

FP: Fishing? Oh, there's a big change. There're very few fishermen out there now because you can't get to the area. You can get to the beach area, [but] even if you got there, you can't fish because there's so many people swimming. The Moana Hotel, Royal Hawaiian, the Surfrider, and all those areas, you don't see fishermen anymore because they can't get to it. They can't get to it with nets. If you had a boat and you had to row outside--you can't use an outboard motor there, they won't allow you. So, you have to row along and fish there with nets if you want to. There're lot of fish. But the fish are so tame, some areas.

I tell you why. I used to go out in front of the Moana and throw my line out when I was living out there. I used to go out about 5:30 in the morning before the tourists would get in the water. So, about six o'clock, I'm having a cup of coffee because right at the Moana there's a little coffee shop in the back there. They open at six, so I had a cup of coffee. I put my pole in the spike there, throw it out. These three old ladies come by there.

"You catch anything?"

"No, nothing yet."

So, they walk down. Now, instead of going to the Royal Hawaiian where it's sandy, they go out. They're holding onto my line. They walking in the water. So, here I am. I say, "Well, here goes my day," see. They walk out there, about fifteen, twenty feet out there. They're swimming, three of them. Five minutes later I get a bite. See how domesticated this damn fish is? I get a bite. A pāpio.

So, they say, "What have you got?"

I said, "Oh, I got a big fish."

Boy, they start coming up. These wahines, sixties, seventies. Come up. I got a lot of limu on the damn line, which helped. So,

I finally got a. . . . Was a big one. Was a ten-pounder.

WN: Ten-pounder?

FP: Yeah, ten-pounder.

"Oh my, did you catch it here?"

I said, "Yeah." I said, "You were right next to it."

"Oh, my gosh."

I said, "I told you. Go down the other side. There's nice swimming down there."

Next time, I went out there, I got a small brown eel. So, I [thought], "I know what I'm going to do. I'm going to leave it right on the beach." So, I threw my line in.

Another old lady--only the old ladies get up early in the morning--
"You catching anything?"

I said, "Yes. I caught this."

"What is that?"

"That's an eel."

"Where'd you catch it?"

I said, "Right here."

She said, "Oh, my God." Walked [away].

(Laughter)

FP: Psychology or what. (That was one way of keeping people from interfering with my fishing.) That's a method of attack.

(Laughter)

FP: "Where'd you catch it?"

I said, "Right here."

"Oh, my God." She tells the other one, "Let's go down there. We don't want to step on these eels."

But the fish are very tame. There're people swimming, they come right in there. Isn't that something? It's just like these birds. What do you call the ones with the red top? Cardinals. You know, these cardinals? At the Navy-Marine where we play golf, they come right up to you. You sitting here, they come right up to you.

Four or five of them. If you eating a sandwich, they'll stand there. They wait for handouts. So, you throw it to them, then they will stand right here. You walk right up [to them], they won't fly away. But you get outside the fence and do it, they won't get near you. They know. (Chuckles)

WN: Fishing must have been good in those days.

FP: Oh, yeah. Lot of 'ō'ios out there. You know what 'ō'ios? Bonefish?

WN: Yeah, bonefish.

FP: I used to catch 'em out there, the big ones. But there's so many people out there. At Gray's Beach, I'd go in there and fish. I'm out there fishing for weke. Schools of fish. And these people, couple come up.

"What are you fishing?" They're swimming right there.

I said, "Well, I'm not catching any yet unless you move out of there." For Christ's sakes, you know. You see, they don't know much about fishing. They mean well, but. . . .

WN: What about the stores in the area? Where did you folks do your grocery shopping?

FP: Well, there was a store. In fact, there were two or three stores on Hobron and 'Ena Road. 'Ena Road, right at the corner there.

WN: What about other businesses in the area? Were there any?

FP: No, not that I know of. There was a barbershop there, up where the store was, right next to it. Fifty cents a cut. That's big money those days. (Chuckles) Haircut for fifty cents, big deal. (Laughs) I forgot the fella's name, the old man. This Yamashita could give you a lot of information on that.

WN: Oh, Yamashita?

FP: He can give you lot of information about the fishermen there. Ikuta, I-K-U-T-A, was well-known fisherman. The last time I saw him, he was about ninety-two years old. I don't know, I think he's passed away now. He used to mend nets for everybody there. Ikuta.

WN: Who were better fishermen in those days? Japanese or Hawaiian?

FP: (There were more Japanese who were regular fishermen and did this as a business.) But, this Pi'ikoi, you know the Old Man Pi'ikoi?

WN: Oh, David Pi'ikoi Oku'u . . .

FP: Yeah. The old man, (was considered one of the best in the area

because he knew all the fishing areas in Kālia.) Now, he taught these Japanese people. They learned (a lot) from him. Pi'ikoi. They all liked him. They all knew him. My dad was a good fisherman, but he just went out once a week.

WN: When did your dad pass away?

FP: About 1929. He was fifty-three.

WN: What about your mom?

FP: My (mother) died (in) 1928.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 13-31-2-85

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Fred Paoa (FP)

March 22, 1985

Foster Village, O'ahu

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Fred Paoa on March 22, 1985 at his home in Foster Village, O'ahu. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, while you were going to school, say, when you were going to St. Louis, what kinds of jobs did you have during the summer?

FP: Let's see, 1921. Wait a minute. I'm trying to think back. I think I was out the beach there as a beach boy. Fifteen, sixteen [years old]. Yeah, I was out the beach at that time. During the summer, I went out there. And my cousins, Bill Kahanamoku, Sam, Duke, David. Of course, they were older than me. When they went out on the canoes, take the tourists out--this is summertime--I got to get on the canoes with them as a second captain. We'd charge the tourists for going out, dollar a head. I've forgotten what the exact amount is. We get paid accordingly. And then, we took [i.e., gave] surfboard lessons. I think we charged two dollars or two and a half an hour. That's how we made our money during the summertime.

WN: Did you approach the tourists?

FP: Well, they usually come down to the beach where the Hui Nalu Club was. They walk by. And we knew the new arrivals came down there looking for people to take them out. When the Matson ships came in, why then you see a whole flock of 'em come down with leis and all that. We took them out. In the evenings they'd have get-togethers and have music on the beach. Have a lot of fun. But we made our money teaching surfboard lessons, swimming lessons, ukulele.

You know, they wanted to learn (to play the) ukuleles. We went out to the Kamaka studios on King Street. The old man made ukuleles there. The Old Man Kamaka. We bought ukuleles at the time. I think they cost about three and a half or four dollars or five dollars. In those days, they sold these pineapple-shaped ukuleles. Have you seen those?

WN: No, I never have.

FP: They're pineapple-shaped. I had one around. I think my daughter has it on the Mainland. You know, it's shape of a pineapple. They were really popular in those days. Very cheap. (We sold them for) seven dollars for (chuckles) one of those, seven and a half. And we sold 'em to the tourists and made a few bucks. Maybe one or two dollars out of one of these things. Then taught them lessons. And then, taught them swimming. Some of them would like to go snorkeling. We didn't have any snorkels those days. We had goggles, spears, you know. That's about most of the things we did during the summertime to earn a few dollars.

WN: Did one person control the money or did you folks just go out on your own and . . .

FP: Oh, we went on our own. They paid us direct. If they're going to stay here for two weeks, three weeks, they'd stay at the Royal Hawaiian, that was the main thing, or the Moana. Only two hotels then. We wouldn't be collecting anything, as long as they going to stay there for two or three weeks. They'd have maybe two or three children. You know, little--ten years, twelve years old. We take them out for the day. You know, in the morning and the afternoon. We keep track of the amount of money that was due us. And then, say, the day or two days before they leave, why, then we go to the hotel and then we get it through the hotel. We work it that way. It's easy that way.

WN: So, the ukuleles, what? Did you have a stand or something where you sold it or how did you sell the ukuleles?

FP: No, no. We just hand carry it. They see the ukuleles, they want to learn to play ukulele. So, we taught them. You know, you sit here and you watch it. And they have to have one in their possession, holding. That's how we taught them--by observation. We show them how to hold it and how to finger the ukulele. That's how they'll learn it. It wasn't a professional way of doing it, but that's the way we did it. We didn't have time to get organized on a ukulele So many ukulele lessons, you know. Nothing like that.

We'd have two or three people. We would have these people here in charge of their vacation for, say, a period of two weeks, three weeks. A family--husband, wife, and their kids, maybe. When they come there and you're not around, the boys will go out looking for whoever's supposed to be there. They'll call me. We expect them. We make appointments, see. And that's the way we did these things. We did it in the morning and afternoon.

WN: Was there any kind of competition among the boys?

FP: No. In those days, no. Because there're only a very few of us doing it. We take these people out on the surfboard, and then push them in on the board. You know, have them stand up. Big deal, you know, hands up. They stand and they fall over, and they like it. Two, three times. We made sure that they're not in the sun too

long because they get sunburned, and then you're going to lose your business. So, we tell them to stay out not more than ten minutes. Or we'd bring a white shirt, cut the sleeves off, and make them wear it. Even the women. Looks like hell, but that's how to prevent it. (Chuckles) We're trying to protect our business, you see. We do that quite a bit. Or we'd get coconut oil and rub it on them, things like that. Lot of things we did on our own.

WN: How about fishing? Did you teach 'em fishing?

FP: Yeah, we caught fish. And we cooked 'em right under the hau tree. We had hau trees right next to the Moana Hotel. Made a fire, they cooked it. Put it on charcoals. We used to buy poi. Everybody get a poi, sit around. If the tourists want to join us, they'll come in and help (chuckles) themselves. That's the way they're going to have to do it. No spoons. Just all by (chuckles) fingers.

WN: Did they like poi?

FP: Some of them do, some don't. Most of them don't. They're not accustomed to it. You have to acquire a taste for poi, you know. You can't just sit down and eat. (Chuckles)

WN: You charged a certain amount for each lesson. Did they give you tips, too?

FP: Oh, yes, yes. But usually, we receive tips at the end of the vacation--let's say, the day before they leave. So, we go down to the docks where the ships are leaving--the Lurline, Matsonia, the Maui. And we buy a lot of leis out there, and go down there, and we take our ukuleles and guitars. We get out there and meet our friends there. When we get in the staterooms, we have a terrific party there. Bring our---well, I didn't drink in those days. But the older fellows bring their bottles and they have a good time. Put the leis on, they [tourists] cry like hell, you know. (Laughs) Oh, they buy sweaters and. . . . You be surprised what these people do.

WN: For you folks?

FP: Give the boys, yeah. Everything. Clothes, everything. And lot of the fellows have made trips to Los Angeles, New York, you name it, all over the place, through the tourists that they got acquainted with. They treated the tourists very well in those days. I mean, the people enjoyed their vacation because we did things that ordinary tourists would never think of doing. Something different.

Like, for instance, you remember the Empire Theater? Now, there's an Empire Theater on Hotel Street. I'm sure it was Hotel, between Fort and Bethel. We used to take the tourists there. We didn't wear shoes. And that's what they liked, no shoes. We'd get an old jalopy that one of the guys owned. Maybe five or six of us get on

there. First, we'd go to People's Cafe. That used to be on Kukui Street, in that area, where they have poi and fish, and stuff like that. We'd go and eat with the tourists. And they get a kick out of it. Walk Chinatown, through the slums and all that. And then, we go to the Empire Theater. I mean, these people are well-to-do people, but they did something that's unheard of, something different, and that's what they liked very much. We didn't have any money. They know that. That's life, we enjoy it that way. And that's what they want.

WN: Did they pay your way to see the movie?

FP: Well, we usually. . . . It didn't cost much. We made money, those days. You know, surfboard lessons, things like that. Oh, they'd sometimes buy meals or we go Chinese dinners, lunch, stuff like that. They'd bring their cars down from the Mainland sometimes. These big cars--limousines. And have the fellow drive it. And all these (chuckles) Hawaiians sit there with barefeet and everything. They're riding these things through town. Even when I went to the University of Hawai'i we were doing this every summer. There're a lot of things you do that they enjoyed it, I know. Enjoyed it very much.

When I was with the detective division in the police [force] for several years, I used to take tourists slumming Chinatown, all those places. Not for a fee, but I just did it because my friends at the beach used to tell me to show them around. I do it at night, you know. Go to the bars, and the nightclubs, and all these dinky tenement places. And the Tin Can Alley, Corkscrew Lane. And Hole-in-the-Wall. (Chuckles) I remember these places. You know, back of the alleys. And they enjoyed it. We did that quite a bit.

WN: When you were doing all these beachboys things, were you folks doing what came naturally to you

FP: It's natural.

WN: . . . or did you feel that you have to put on a little act?

FP: No, it's all natural. We felt that if they didn't like it, probably, they'd go somewheres else. You know what I mean? And we know they like it. Because they came down here for a vacation. Of course, they'll go around the island. We take them to luaus. We had friends who have baby luaus in those days. Big fabulous luaus. We took the tourists. And they expected us to bring somebody. And I don't mean two or three, (chuckles) we bring a gang of tourists. And then, they have this big calabash, you know, in the old days, at the head where the birthday child is sitting with its grandmother or whatever. And everybody throw a dollar, five dollars. Oh, the tourists, I don't know what they putting in. And everybody get their dance after. Hula dancing and singing. The tourists enjoy it.

We didn't charge 'em for doing things like that because we enjoyed it ourselves. Nothing commercial, that's the point. We didn't charge for taking them out slumming, things like that. We did it on our own because we liked it. I'm talking about these people that we were taking out surfing and swimming. We used to call it "our customers." But this is just a side issue that we know they'd like. Like ride around town, walking through Tin Can Alleys and all that sort of thing, Chinatown. And go down in the Chinese restaurant, buy a manapua, and pepeiao, and all that stuff.

They say, "What is that?"

I say, "Eat it first and we'll tell you later." Some of them liked it, some of them. . . . But they get a kick out of it.

WN: Yeah, that sounds really non-commercial, yeah . . .

FP: You see, yeah. As I say, we don't charge 'em for things like that. That's why these tourists come back for years. Every year, they'd come back, the same people. So, when they come back, before they get to the clubhouse, somebody says, "Hey, some people here. So-and-so's friends." Like Fred's friends are here. Or Charlie. Nobody else going to touch it because they know that Bill, [for example], took care of them last summer. He's going to take care of them. We understand that. They know the people, they know the names, and they know the families, you see. We had a wonderful time out there. All through, even my time at the University, I was going out there.

WN: I guess that's a big difference from now days, huh?

FP: I don't know what they do now days. I know they charging a (chuckles) fabulous amount there. They're so many [beach boys] there. A few years later, they started--the competition was terrific. They had to organize here, they had fights and everything else. I don't know what happened after that. But we didn't have any trouble at all.

WN: The fact that you were one of the younger ones, were you treated like an equal . . .

FP: I was about fifteen, sixteen.

WN: . . . were you treated like an equal? Did they treat you the same way or, you know, the fact that you were younger, did they treat you as a younger . . .

FP: Oh, the tourists?

WN: No, the other beach boys.

FP: Yes, well, when I first went out there, I remember going out there with a surfboard. My cousin Sam took me out. I was about fifteen then. He said, "Come on, let's go out." So I paddled out. Before

I got out to Canoe Surf with the big waves at the time--that's at the Moana. Before I got there, I hear this whistle. Chee, I turn around, look. Duke's on the board. He says to me, "Get inside." I didn't know what he meant. So, Sam say, "Hey, kid, you better go in." Well, I didn't understand. So, I went in, I waited. I said, "What?"

He'd say, "Well, because you're too young. You've never been out there before." He'd say, "You better stay inside, get the small ones for a while."

(Laughter)

FP: That's how they operated out there. The big guys. Any young kid that goes out there, they'll. . . . Which is good. You don't see it now days. You take these sailors that rent their boards, fifty cents a board for the day. You see them struggling. They're all over the place. So one of the guys would come out and then go by. You know how they put their toes on the board? And then, bring them in. The guy say, "Hey, where you taking me?"

"You gotta go in, buddy, we're taking you in. We don't want anybody to drown out here." I'm glad they did it, because when I got to do better surfing, bigger waves, then I gradually went out. Then you see why they're doing it. When you see these other kids go out, the big guys don't let any of the young kids out there. You gotta really know how to handle it. (Laughs)

WN: So, you were a young kid hanging around some bigger kids then a lot, huh? You used to hang around the big kids a lot.

FP: Well, yeah.

WN: So, is that how you got your nickname "Boy"?

FP: No, that was before I went out there. My parents called me that when I was so young.

WN: Tell me about surfboard polo.

FP: Well, it's just like water polo, except you're on a surfboard. There's a goal, and you hold the ball. (FP examines photograph.) Now, this picture, I think, it's surfboard polo. And then, you have the ball, you throw it from the board. You're lying on the board, and you trying to throw it at the net. They have a goalkeeper there. He's sitting on the board and he's reaching for it. You could sit up or you could paddle. Like if the ball is thrown at a distance, you just go for it and paddle. But it's dangerous because these boards are pointed and they're heavy. They're redwood. See, if you going this way and the board is coming against you like this, you know what I mean? So, you gotta make sure that you don't get hit in the ribs. Those boards are pretty fast when you start paddling again.

WN: Where do you keep the ball while you're paddling?

FP: You put it here in front of you. You're lying down.

WN: Oh, you put it under your chest.

FP: No, underneath your chin. (FP demonstrates.) See, you're paddling this way. Like this. You're paddling like this, but you're keeping it here. See? And you're paddling like this. Then when you throw, you get it out here, and then throw it. (Chuckles)

WN: I see. And somebody can hit the ball away?

FP: Well, they'll hit you on the head and everything else to get it.

(WN greets someone.)

FP: It's a rough game, very rough. But nobody plays it now.

WN: Why not?

FP: I don't know. I don't know. Oh, we played it quite a bit. We beat Outrigger [Canoe Club]. There was Outrigger, Queen's Surf. Oh, three teams there. We used to beat 'em all the time because we had some (chuckles) rough guys there. (FP examines photograph of the Kahanamoku brothers' water polo team.) He played. He didn't play--no, well, he played quite a bit. But Sam was one of those. Sam. Three of us. He was the older. They didn't play.

WN: Duke and . . .

FP: Yeah, Duke didn't play with us.

WN: This is David?

FP: David, yeah. There's Sargent, Louis, Sam, Bill.

WN: Sounds like a rough game . . .

FP: See how big the boards are? They're tall. Thirteen, twelve feet.

WN: You said while you were going to UH, during the summers, you played music someplace? You played music at Royal Hawaiian?

FP: No, at the beach. Well, we used to play for private parties. Just the beach fellas got together. "Splash" Lyons. That was later on. "Freckle"'s brother "Splash," "Chick" Daniels, my brother Melvin, and couple of others. Sometimes we played the dinner hour. Just the dinner hour--an hour, hour and a half, you see--at the Royal [Hawaiian Hotel]. Nineteen twenty-seven, that's when they opened the Royal. So, right after that, we did that for quite some time. Just an hour, that's all. And later on, they had orchestras and they had somebody else doing that. But we used to play for private parties

on the beach and the hotels. We didn't get very much as far as pay is concerned. Five dollars a night. Can you imagine that? Which was big money in those days. Five, six dollars a night, maybe ten dollars. The tips were bigger than what we charged them.

WN: Oh, yeah?

FP: (Laughs) But usually, the people that we took care of, that were here to spend their vacation, they're the ones that usually come to me and say, "Say, Fred, can you get couple of guys together? We're going to give a party." We get whoever's available. Because they're all musicians. Everybody played ukulele, guitar. All you need are two, three fellas. And they all sing. The whole gang can sing. Take a few hang-ons, you know. The guys who want to hang (chuckles) around for a while. And we had lot of parties on the beach. Bonfires. Yeah, it's quite fun. I guess they still do it, but I don't know.

WN: In talking to Earle Vida [another interviewee], he said that you folks had a baseball team.

FP: Yeah.

WN: What was the name of the . . .

FP: Kālia Athletic Club. He pitched, Espinda pitched. Keizo Tsuji was the catcher. I played first base, Harada second base. Let's see, shortstop, "Red" McQueen.

WN: Oh, the sports writer?

FP: Yeah. "Red" McQueen played shortstop. Third base, Fuji . . .

WN: Was "Red" McQueen from Kālia?

FP: No, he lived in Makiki, but he came down to play there. He's quite a guy. Fuji played third base. In left field was Burbank. His brother was quite a diver, Burbank. Center field, Matsumoto, who played for McKinley [High School]. And Gilbert, my other brother, played right field. We played several years. One year we played about twenty-five games. We lost one game on Maui. And the reason why we lost, and I'm not putting on, those umpires were really a bunch of bums.

We used to play at the old Mō'ilili'ili Field. Play all the army teams. We used to play Fort DeRussy. We play 35th Infantry. Several others from Schofield Barracks. We used to play them at DeRussy. We're all bush-leaguers. Played in dungarees. We didn't have any uniforms. Sweatshirt, dungarees. (Laughs) But we played for several years.

WN: Where did you folks practice?

FP: At DeRussy. The field there, I don't know whether you're familiar. It's right across the street from Hale Koa. Up in that open area. Well, Saratoga Road, there's a parking area. Right there, it used to be a very big area, baseball field. So, we practiced there with the soldiers. And we used to have baseball games [there] with them.

And on Thanksgiving--well, that was long before that, in fact. The kids were invited there for Thanksgiving dinner at DeRussy. (Chuckles) I'll never forget it. Well, that was when I was small, they did that.

We had quite a good baseball team. So, when did you talk to Earle [Vida]? Recently?

WN: Earle? Yesterday.

FP: Oh, yeah? How is he?

WN: Fine, fine. He said, "Oh, when you see Fred Paoa, tell him that he was a real good first baseman."

(Laughter)

FP: He was quite a pitcher, this Earle. And homerun, boy, that guy. You ought to know he's strong as hell. At least one or two homeruns a game. Then he played for the Hawai'i [League] team, the Wanderers.

I didn't go into football at all. We used to do sandlot football, but nothing else. I was too small, too light, those days. I don't think I weighed about 120 pounds.

(Laughter)

WN: You must have been pretty tall, though, huh?

FP: Around five [feet], nine [inches]. I weighed 153 at the U. I played soccer there for four years. I didn't play football. Little baseball, I think, I played up there. Otto Klum was coach. I did judo there for about four years. Three, four years. Swam a little bit. Inter-class, you know.

We had some wonderful football teams there [at the University of Hawai'i]. From '25, '24 on. You know about . . .

WN: Those were the Wonder Teams [of 1924-25]?

FP: Yeah. I was there when they had 'em. I was one of the (chuckles) fellas working in the locker room. I had to take out all the equipment out on the field, and I used to be a water boy for several seasons there during football games for the teams. We had some wonderful. . . . Johnny Morse, "Pump" Searle, "Doggie" Wise, "Willie" Wise, [Louis] Collins. Let's see, Bruce Cruickshank, Jim Cruickshank,

["Duke"] Thompson, the end, [George] Young, "Bear" Tong--Dr. Tong now. There was another Japanese fella, I've forgotten his name. "Bull" Towse.

WN: How about Hiram Ka'akua?

FP: He came later (to the UH). After I graduated. This is '25, '26, '27, I think, '28. Yeah. I stuck my nose in almost everything.

(Laughter)

FP: But you know, I remember these things very much. I used to tell my grandsons about working down on the waterfront [as] stevedores. Forty-five cents an hour.

WN: When did you do that?

FP: I was in, I think, the last year at St. Louis and (noise in background) the first two years at the University. I remember going down there on Saturday mornings with, I think, "Pump" Searle, some other football players. With the Inter-Island [Steam Navigation Company] we used to work down there. Forty-five cents an hour. And work on the Inter-Island freighters bringing in the sugar bags and fertilizer bags. All heavy work, you know. Then we used to work on these Matson ships. And the ship that came from Australia loaded with meat in their big freezers. You walk in freezers. Work in there an hour, then come out, and dry out. Boy, (it) was cold. All we had was light shirts. But we worked there on weekends, all the young fellas. (Chuckles)

WN: Was this hard work?

FP: Oh, yeah. Was really heavy work. Heavy boxes. I don't know how I happen to do it, but I guess maybe I was in good shape (chuckles) those days. I was light, I wasn't very heavy. I remember going down to. . . . In '24, the plantation strike. I think it's in '24, I forgot. Was it in '24? [FP is probably talking about the 1920 strike, when he was fifteen years old.]

WN: Filipinos?

FP: I don't know. We used to catch these boxcars from the depot and go down there--I don't (remember), Waipahu, 'Ewa, whatever--get off. They say, "What do you want to do?"

I said, "Well, it's hāpai kō, huki lepo." What's the other one?

WN: Hō hana?

FP: Hō hana. So, I didn't like that carrying the cane. You get it all over your neck. But what I like is, they give you a hoe and you have to dig out the weeds. They give you, say, fifteen rows. We'd get up there, and then hoe the soil over the weeds. Cover the

(chuckles) weeds. Finish it in about three hours. You know, look for a tree, you go there and just go to sleep. Wait for the boxcar to show up. We get three dollars a day. But we made sure we didn't go back to the same place because, you know, they found out that we didn't do our job (right).

(Laughter)

FP: What a kid. You know how kids are. (Laughs)

WN: You weren't scared going out there with the strike going on?

FP: No. I don't know why. Bunch of us used to go out. We used to walk from Waikīkī to the depot. You know where the depot is?

WN: By 'A'ala Park?

FP: Yeah. From Waikīkī, we used to walk. We didn't have any cars. And you had to get there about five in the morning. Because those trains left early, those boxcars. You get through about three o'clock in the afternoon and they bring you back. Three dollars.

WN: Did you see any pickets?

FP: No, there were no pickets there. Not like we do now. We didn't know it was a strike. The regular workers weren't working, period. Actually, we didn't know why they were on strike. I remember we didn't even find out what was going on. Just says, "Hey, they need men to work in the plantation," so we went down. Everybody went down. All the school kids went down.

WN: Was this 1924 or 1920?

FP: I don't know. [Probably 1920.]

WN: Were you in high school or were you at UH?

FP: I think I was in high school, I'm almost sure. I wasn't too old, though. (Fifteen years old.) Maybe I was younger. Must have been younger, because I wouldn't be doing things like that [at age nineteen]. (Chuckles) I have more sense. Walk from Waikīkī, I must have been nuts.

WN: How long did it take you?

FP: About an hour, I guess. Or more, hour and a half. We used to walk to buy our papers on Merchant Street from Waikīkī. Honolulu Advertiser.

WN: You told me you worked cannery, too.

FP: My first job at the cannery--I think I was twelve--they gave me one of these cans with a (chuckles) little rake to pick up all the stray pineapple slices on the floor. I think they gave me twelve

cents an hour. Can you imagine that? And I had to buy lunch. And the amount of money spent on the lunch, took me three days to make up for the damn thing.

(Laughter)

FP: See? So then, I brought lunch. But I didn't know where to keep the lunch. I had no place to keep it. After that, I ate pineapples, I think.

(Laughter)

FP: That something? And you use that money to catch the transit. That was a nickel, I think. But where's the hell the profit there? You can't make money.

(Laughter)

FP: You see how crazy kids are? (Laughs) In the later years, I said to myself, "I'm glad they had formed the unions. Them son of a bitches down there, a bunch of crooks."

(Laughter)

FP: And the top pay was forty-five cents an hour. Top for these guys who were working. You know, they'd unload the pineapple boxes loaded with pineapple from the trains and the trucks--the trains in those days. Unload the machines that came down. Ginaca machines, they call it, where they trim the pineapples. Well, they got forty-five cents an hour. Big money. I was down there getting twelve cents. Then later on, I get fifteen cents. Till finally, I quit. I got wise. I went to shine shoes, I guess, somewhere. I made more money shining shoes [and] selling newspapers.

WN: What cannery did you work at?

FP: Hawaiian Pine[apple Company]. Everybody went there. (Chuckles) I'll never forget that, boy. Twelve cents an hour. I told my kids that, boy, they don't believe it. I said, "You talk about tough."

(Laughter)

FP: Shee. Picking up stray pineapples. You ever hear a story about that?

WN: No, I never heard of that job before.

FP: Oh, lot of people did it. I'm not the only one. But I remember that. I'm sure of that. I used to get a job there. I was about fourteen. You stack up these trays. Then after that, I didn't work at the pineapple factory at all. (Laughs) That's comical, boy, thinking back.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

[The first five minutes of side two were not recorded due to the interviewer's error. FP is talking about his experiences as a police department liaison for the "Hawaii 5-0" television series in the 1970s.]

FP: . . . you know, people who they wanted in the picture. Police officers, detectives, motorcycle officers. And then, I rented all the blue-and-white cars, motorcycles, wagons. And hired the fingerprint officers, crime lab, and the panel truck. And then, I got permits for "5-0" from City and County, the state, and federal to shoot movies on these respective highways, you know--county, state, federal. I assigned the officers on security patrol when they're shooting. You know, keep you back, stop traffic. There was a sergeant doing the job, but I have to tell him what we wanted. That was my job.

WN: That's a big job.

FP: Well, there's a lot of men involved. Because the type of pictures they had involved so many policemen in the pictures each week. During one season, probably there'd be four or five hundred people and the policemen involved in the employment. They get paid every week and I would work through the personnel division of the police department. Like the beginning of the season, I'll go to the police station and get a list. Find out who was interested in working. Now, these fellas have to be off-duty officers only. So I had to get schedules from the personnel division. See, there're three watches--day watch, night watchmen, night watch. And these people rotate every three months, the policemen. Well, I'd have these on file with me. I knew who is interested in working, rank, type of people. Kāne'ohe station, Pearl City station, all these stations. Detectives. So when the time comes, if they wanted, if we're shooting in Kāne'ohe, I'd get the people from that area, not from here. Except people that the "5-0" would rather have in the picture, that's something else again. If it's Wahiawā, I'd get [someone from there], which is only fair to them, you see.

Then when we went to the Big Island to shoot, Kona and Hilo. I'd go there and see the [police] chief which I knew very well. He'd give me a list of people who would like to work. Waimea, Kona, same way. Maui. Yeah, we did all right. I was lucky because I knew the chiefs in the islands. And then, my work here. And then, I did a lot of [consulting for the] crime scenes where they would like to know what the detectives did at the crime scene or what the lab people--you know, the fingerprint--usually did.

WN: You were like a consultant.

FP: In a way, yes. Well, I'd been doing this for so long, I knew that. I just explain to them, they did this, did this, this. This is the way this fingerprint.

WN: How long did you do that?

FP: Oh, about, gee, nine years, I think ["Hawaii 5-0" was filmed between 1967 and 1980.] I came out in '68 [i.e., retired from the police force], I loafed for almost a year, I think, playing golf, fishing. The latter part of '69, I think, I started. I left there about two years before they quit [the series] altogether. A year and a half or two years.

WN: Is your name in the credits in the back? You know when they have all the names in the back, did they put your name down?

FP: No, no. On the screen?

WN: Yeah.

FP: No, no. I don't think so, no.

WN: So you started with the police department in 1932.

FP: Yeah.

WN: How did you get started? How did you get the job?

FP: Well, I tell you, this is funny, too. You remember there was a (stock market) crash in '30?

WN: Yeah. Depression?

FP: (Jobs were scarce and because I was married and needed regular income, I joined the Honolulu Police Department as a rookie in 1932.)

WN: So, what are some of things you remember about police work that sticks in your mind?

FP: In police work?

WN: Yeah.

FP: There's so many things. I could tell you the things I learned from these old-timers. There was one of 'em who took me in the back of the. . . . You know the fish market, Kekaulike Street?

WN: Yeah.

FP: There used to be a little alleyway from River Street in the back. So, [we] walk in there. There was a box there. So, he says, "Sonny, you get tired, you sit right here." He said, "You sleep, rest."

I said, "How? What do you mean?"

He said, "Well, you hold"--you know what a baton is? You sitting here, you hold the baton like this, you sleep. So, you go sound asleep, you relax, (chuckles) baton hit the concrete, wake you up.

(Laughter)

WN: You have the baton on your forehead and you're leaning down, right?

FP: Well, doesn't have to be on your forehead. You could hold it like this and go to sleep. But the fact is, (when) it hits the concrete, it wake you (chuckles) up. That means you're sound asleep, right?

Another guy says to me--I think it's Nakea. These guys were all big guys--six feet, three [inches]. All pure-blooded Hawaiians. He says, "Say, you see a fight over there on the sidewalk, what do you do?"

I said, "Why do you ask me? You're supposed to teach me."

He said, "I just asking a simple question. What do you do, you see a fight?"

I said, "Go over there (and) stop (the fight)."

He said, "No, no. You don't do that. You wait. Everybody fall down, then you call the wagon."

(Laughter)

FP: You know what I mean?

WN: Common sense, right?

FP: Yeah. Rush over there, they'll beat you up. Get, say, two or three fellas there. Or even two guys. If you wait till they drop, then you go call the wagon.

WN: Were there any times where your life was in danger?

FP: Yeah, well, I had one. It was a domestic case. Afternoon, about two o'clock. Had a case up Kalihi. Second floor, and you had to walk up a stairway. And, oh, about thirty-five people down below watching. This guy's yelling up there. This Portuguese fella fighting with his wife. So, I walked up. I was really a rookie in uniform. When I got to the top of the stairs, the door opened. Here's a guy (facing me) with a German luger. He's standing here. I look (below), everybody's down there (watching). My gun in my holster. I didn't expect it. And he says to me, "Get out of here, you (cop)!"

I say, "Hey, (brother), what's the matter?"

"Oh, my wife!"

I say, "You know, those wahines, I know they're more trouble, the wahines. They always give you trouble."

He said, "Yeah, yeah."

I say, "Gee, my wife's the same way." I'm telling him, see. "The wahines, I don't know what's the matter, they always give (you) trouble. Is that right?"

He say, "Yeah." (As) he turned (facing his wife), I gave him a shove and I grabbed the gun. He's a slim guy. And (the gun) was loaded. You know, I pushed him. Boy (chuckles), I beat him up. But that was a close one. But the fact that I was speaking to be on his side that time.

Now days you don't do that. You don't go walk up by yourself. You wait. Regardless how small the case is. You wait for a backup. But I went up by myself. All he had to do is pull the damn (trigger) and I'd (be) gone. There's too many that we don't feel it's worth remembering anyway. (Laughter)

WN: I guess once is enough, huh?

FP: Once is enough, yeah. Domestic are the most dangerous (type of) cases. Because it's unexpected (things that happen). Now, you go in the room, husband and wife. And you can't side with anybody. If you arrest the husband, the wife's going to start getting a club or something and hit you with it. (Or the reverse could happen.) You're in a private home, that's why it's dangerous.

WN: During World War II, you were telling me a story about your experiences during the war. You left the police force for a while and went into the Navy?

FP: Yeah, I got (a) leave of absence from Chief Gabrielson. I went in on June 15, '41 to the Navy, intelligence, as an investigator. You know, as a civilian agent. Jack Burns was a detective with us at the time. He told me that they wanted somebody from the force (and asked) if I was interested. I said, "Sure. Be glad to." For a change, (chuckles) you know. I stayed in (the service) till the end of ('45). We were really busy (during) those years.

Then I went back to the police about (November of 1945), the start of ('46)--to the detective division as a detective. And then, later, oh, I think the following week, I went into crime prevention as a lieutenant. And then, Captain Madison--I don't know whether you knew him--he resigned, oh, about five or six months later. And I got his job in the same division. I was there for some time. Then I got promoted to assistant chief. I think it was '56. Mostly administrative work. You know, technical services, personnel, records division, finance division, had our crime lab, the radio

communications, the maintenance of the blue-and-white cars, and so forth. Later on, we (acquired) the county jail. But I think we did very well with that county jail.

WN: Who was the chief at the time?

FP: The chief was Dan Liu. He retired in '69, one year after I did. Well, I wasn't in the investigative field after the dicks, except for a very short time as assistant chief of the investigative services. But that was very short time.

WN: So, you retired in '68?

FP: Sixty-eight, yeah.

WN: Getting back to Kālia, when did you move out of Kālia?

FP: I think in (1955).

WN: Why did you move out?

FP: (When Henry J. Kaiser purchased property in Kālia in 1954, the value of adjacent properties began to skyrocket. Because of this increase in value, it was advisable to move out and lease our property rather than live there and pay cheap rent. After leasing it for ten years, we sold the property to Hilton Hawaiian Village.)

WN: So, Kaiser started building the Hawaiian Village around the mid-fifties, too?

FP: I think was in '55. (Kaiser purchased about seventeen acres of property in that area.)

WN: So, the John 'Ena Estate, which was behind your property, did he [Kaiser] acquire that land?

FP: Oh, yeah. That's the first thing he bought [in 1954, for \$750,000]. He bought all of that first. Then he bought Niumalu [in 1955, for \$1.2 million]. See, Jerry Zucker had it. It was a nightclub. He [Kaiser] bought that because he wanted to extend his property out on the left. He built the lagoon. Then he built the beach.

WN: Kaiser?

FP: Yeah. He built that beach--Kahanamoku Beach. He built all that and the lagoon. And then, he got the State---the State is responsible [for] keeping the lagoon up-to-date, clean and all that. But the person who leases the property in the area has to be responsible to the State (for maintenance). In other words, when we owned the Waikikian [Hotel property] which adjoins the lagoon. . . . This is the Waikikian and this is the Hawaiian Village. And [in] the center, this is the lagoon. We had part access to the lagoon. Now, Kaiser is responsible (to the State) for (upkeep). The State is responsible to us.

Because you can have a change of ownership on these other property, but the State will always be there. So when we sold this to [Harry] Weinberg--he has it now. You understand what I mean? That water has to come in and out in that lagoon to keep it clean.

WN: So, the John 'Ena Estate, they had to break down all the homes?

FP: Yeah. Oh, Kaiser did that.

WN: I mean, Kaiser, yeah.

FP: But, well, including the other estate, the Cassidy and all this, more than seventeen acres involved in all that whole area. More or less, seventeen, I think. Up to Dewey Way. That's Hawaiian Village now.

WN: So, what Kaiser did was he acquired the John 'Ena Estate land and he acquired the Niumalu land . . .

FP: Yeah, later. And then, the others. He bought (all) the (other property up to DeRussy).

WN: You still kept your part for a while, and he leased from you folks?

FP: Yeah, we leased. But we moved out. He leased it for a while.

WN: So, then in about the mid-fifties, after you moved out, then they tore down your [old] house?

FP: No, no. You see, I [first] lived in that big, old, rambling house. But we had four cottages that (were) moved in by my oldest brother. So, I moved into the first cottage, and my sister and brother the next. We tore [down] that old house (around 1948 or 1950) when we were living there. Then we moved out and sold the cottages to Kaiser (in 1955). He used the one I lived in as a temporary business office while he was building the dome and all these other things. Because the dome went up in one day. I saw him build it. People put it together. Started in the morning and finished that night. And he was building these hotels. He used that cottage where I lived as an office. Then after we moved, we sold the cottages, then [we] leased the whole area. [We] leased it for about ten years.

[One year after purchasing the John 'Ena Estate for \$750,000, Henry J. Kaiser in 1955 purchased the neighboring Niumalu Hotel from Associated Hotels, Ltd. for \$1.2 million. Around this time, he leased adjoining land from the Paoa family. Later that year, on these three large parcels of land on the corner of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kālia Road, Kaiser built the Hawaiian Village Hotel. In 1961, Kaiser sold the Hawaiian Village to Hilton Hotels Corporation for \$21.5 million. Hilton continued to lease the Paoa Estate land until 1968, when Hilton purchased the land. The Paoa's other Kālia property, the area on which the Waikikian Hotel now stands, was sold

to financier Harry Weinberg.]

WN: Why did you eventually sell the property [to Hilton in 1965]?

FP: I thought I told you. Oh, why did I sell it? Well, we figured that the family, my brothers and sisters, were getting old, and they could utilize that money [by selling] rather than leasing. When you split it ten ways, it's not worth it. The lease, I'm talking about. I've forgotten what the lease was. I figured, it would be better to sell it and we split it. Each individual could invest that money or whatever they wanted to do with it and enjoy it. Same with the Waikikian [property]. We sold it. People say, "Why don't you save it?" Save it for whom? For our grandchildren? How about my sisters and brothers? There's only five of us left. But the biggest headache that would come about is the fact that your family will expand--you have in-laws--to the point that when you negotiate and transact business, as far as real estate is concerned, that means everybody has to sign the papers to approve they going to do this. Only takes one person to jam up the pie, right? Only one. I know. So, you taking the chance. That's my answer.

And then, when you sell property like that, each one has his share and that's up to you to use that money or squander, or invest it, or do what you want. And give your kids what they want. That's what I'm doing. It's no different. If you talk about saving for grandchildren, here's your chance now. Invest your money now, and the interest on that money, you save for your grandchildren as individuals. What's wrong with that? But as I say, one of the biggest headaches is to get everybody to agree to do this. Now, I didn't have any problems. I was lucky. When you get ten people--and I mean ten people plus the married people have to sign it. Say, about six people are married, husband and wife. Some are single. So, that's maybe twelve or fourteen people. You have to get signatures from them to be agreeable to go along and do what you want to do. If you have one person who doesn't want to do it, that's the trouble with some of the big estates here. To this day, they can't settle it.

I mean, I don't regret it. Sure, the property [value] has gone up. So what? My dad and my mother didn't enjoy it. My oldest brother, another brother, [and] two [other] brothers and three sisters that didn't enjoy it. They get nothing out of it, they're dead. So, why should I keep it, lease, and then maybe I pass away?

WN: How did you feel about a hotel coming up and all the changes around Kālia?

FP: Well, I tell you. I miss the area very much. I miss it. I miss the fishing. I like to swim and fish. I used to go out there all the time. When I was working at the police department, when I'm staying there, I used to get my fishing gear and my pole--small pole with a reel--leave it in my car. I used to get up at 5:30 in the morning. You ask my wife. And I used to go to DeRussy. There

was a little pier that went out. DeRussy. Catch two or three pāpios. Come home, cook it for breakfast, then go to work. What the hell's better than that? You tell me. You can't do it. (Chuckles) That's what I miss. Those things.

Or I used to go out with a pole in the late afternoon. Go in front of the Royal Hawaiian and throw my pole out, catch 'ō'ios. There're lot of people in the water. And you sit there, and the people say, "You catching anything?"

"No."

Listen, you meet so many people there, you enjoy it. I sit there. They're from all over the place. "You caught anything yet?"

"No."

First, I don't give a damn if I catch anything or not. It's just the idea you have a lot of fun talking to strangers. They interest you, see. They ask you a lot of questions. I get a kick out of that. I used to take my dinner out there and eat on the beach. About 7:00, 7:30 [p.m.], go. (Laughs)

WN: What are your feelings today about Waikīkī? A lot has changed . . .

FP: Well, I think you need the tourists. You sure need the tourist, you know. They're [hotels] making a lot of money. They're charging quite a bit, the hotels. What do you mean now?

WN: I don't know. What you . . .

FP: You mean, compared to the old days?

WN: Yeah.

FP: Well, I'd rather go back to the old days, but it can't be done. It's impossible now, too late. I miss lot of things. After I moved [from] there, I used to go down every weekend. I miss that fishing. (At) DeRussy, I (could) walk out on the reef. Even for years I used to go down there. (Chuckles) You can't help (it). Fifty years and you live in one place, you know. It's a long time. Nineteen fifty-five, we left there. I was fifty years old.

WN: Before I turn off the tape recorder, do you have anything, last things you want to say about you or your life? Anything?

FP: No, I don't think so. I've said so much.

(Laughter)

FP: Geez. That's it.

WN: Mr. Paoa, I want to thank you very much.

FP: That's all right.

END OF INTERVIEW

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